

## **RPHL NETWORK: ADVANCING PARTNERSHIP FOR CAPACITY BUILDING ON LABORATORY SYSTEMS**

**15-17 MAY 2023, MIRACLE GRAND, BANGKOK, Thailand**

The Thai government through the Department of Medical Sciences will host a partnership forum of the Regional Public Health Laboratory Network aiming for:

- 1) Sharing progress/update of the network
- 2) Presenting preliminary report of 'Situational Assessment' for capacity building of the Network
- 3) Identifying collaboration for capacity building of the Network and 'Flagship Program/initiatives' of the Network
- 4) Reviewing and setting the directions of the network

### **Background**

In October 2019, Thailand, the Department of Medical Sciences (DMSc), Ministry of Public Health works closely with countries and key development partners in establishing the 'Regional Public Health Laboratory (RPHL) Network' under the Global Health Security Agenda [GHSA], funded by USAID through FHI 360.

The Network was successfully formed and has functioned well with initial focuses on sharing information, knowledge, and resources among human health regional public health laboratories. The network currently consists of 12 country members, including 11 countries in ASEAN and Nepal.

During its annual forum in December 2020, the Network was well acknowledged as one of regional responsive mechanisms, especially during COVID-19 pandemic. Key recommendations to sustain the network were deliberated include: **Building Trust, Visibility/Communication/Coordination, Governance/Structure, and Resource Mobilization.**

**In October 2022**, visioning to be one of '**RESPONSIVE**' lab networks in Asia and Pacific, the 3-year Strategic Work Plan [2023 – 2026] has been crafted/concurred by the network with four key strategic objectives including:

- I. Strengthen the foundation of secretariat,
- II. Facilitate capacity building,
- III. Strengthen the network/ coordinating platform, and
- IV. Enhance knowledge management platform.

**During December 2022 – March 2023**, the Situational Assessment for capacity development plan has been undertaken in collaboration with key development partners such as CHAI, FIND, WHO SEARO, and CDC.

To materialize the key strategic objectives and its development above, it deems necessary to hold an annual partnership forum to advance partnership and synergy efforts with key development partners, especially in addressing the gaps transpiring from this exercise. Among others, it is expecting that the plan for building capacity of laboratory systems for the Network will be jointly developed.

This event will be conducted during **15-17 May 2023** preceding the two following RPHL Network events:

- a) An annual meeting for RPHL Network on **17 May 2023**; and
- b) Regional Infectious Substance Shipping Program and Standard Operating Procedure Development on **17-19 May 2023**.

The Annual Partnership Forum is supported by FIND and DTRA in collaboration with the Thai government through the Department of Medical Sciences with expecting of 70-100 participants representing national laboratories from 12 countries in Asia and Pacific, lab experts, key development partners, regional lab networks, regional entities/networks, and GHSA Chair, coordinating bodies & relevant Action Packages/Task Forces.

**Participants: about 70 - 100 of participants [in country & international]**

**A: Supported delegates:**

- 1) RPHL Network [12 countries \*2] = 24 pp
- 2) Invited resources person/speakers [in country & international] = 38 pp

**B: Self- Supported delegates**

- 1) Lab Experts
- 2) Development Partners/networks

**Expected outputs:**

- a) Highlighted roles of laboratory in global health security investment;
- b) Underscored roles of regional network in capacity building
- c) A list of capacity building development plan of the network and key implementing partners;
- d) A list of reflection for network's sustainability; and
- e) Enhanced lab networks and gained visibility of RPHL Network

### TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Program	Activities/presenters/Speakers	Remarks
<b>Day 1: 15 May 2023: Registration at 8 30 AM</b>		
08 45 – 09 15 <b>Opening Session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome by Dr. Supakit Sirilak, Director General, Department of Medical Science</li> <li>▪ Remarks by Dr. Jessica Markby, Foundation of Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)</li> <li>▪ Remarks by Mdm. Jessica Spencer, Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR), Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)</li> <li>▪ Opening Remarks by Dr. Opart Karnkawinpong, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand</li> </ul>	All participants RPHL Network, honorable Guests, and key partners
<b>Session 1: SET THE STAGE</b> <b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) to highlight issues/lessons learned of laboratory preparedness &amp; response and pave the way for capacity building of the network;</li> <li>b) to update progress of the network including recommendations of an annual partnership forum in December 2020, membership, key achievements, etc.</li> </ul>		
09 15 – 09 45	<b>Key Note: Laboratory Preparedness &amp; Response for Post Covid-19</b> Dr. Supakit Sirilak, Director General of the Department of Medical Sciences, Thailand	
09 45 – 10 15	Photo session and coffee break	
10 15 – 10 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introduction/updates of RPHL Network</li> <li>▪ Strategic Plan for RPHL Network [2023-2025]</li> <li>▪ Presentation of SWOT Analysis</li> </ul> By Ms. Jintana Sriwongsa Dr. Athiwat Primisirikunawut RPHL Network Secretariat	Video Presentation
<b>SESSION II: Global and regional initiatives on laboratory preparedness</b> <b>Objectives:</b> To provide global health landscape & regional movement, highlight significant roles of laboratory preparedness, assess on global health security investment		

10 45 – 12 00 <i>session will be divided into 2 parts</i>	Panel Discussion: Laboratory preparedness & Global health security investment <i>Moderator: Dr. Khanchit Limpakarnjanarat, Advisor for RPHL Network &amp; Advisor for DDC, Thailand</i>	WHO HQ to participate virtually Speakers to give a 10 - mins presentation, followed by plenary discussion
10 45 – 11 30	<b>Part I: Global movement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GSHA Phase III by Mdm. Saadia Ambreen, GHSA Chair, Pakistan</li> <li>▪ Global &amp; regional health security landscape: how to maximizing efforts? By Dr. Jose Fernandez, Department of Health and Human Services, GHSA USA</li> <li>▪ Pandemic Fund by Mr. Ludy Suryantoro, WHO HQ</li> </ul>	Virtual participation - WHO HQ
11 30 – 12 30	<b>Part II: Regional efforts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regional collaboration by Dr. John MacArthur, Regional CDC, Viet Nam</li> <li>▪ ACPHEED &amp; ASEAN Health Cluster 2 by Dr. Soawapak Hinjoy, Office of International Cooperation, Department of Diseases Control, Thailand</li> <li>▪ Roles of private sectors by Ms. Hui Sin Teo, Representative of Private Sector Roundtable</li> </ul>	
12 30 – 13 30	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
<b>SESSION III: Current situation of laboratory preparedness &amp; response of 12 RPHL Network members</b> Objectives: To inform more targeted and tailored interventions in the region, RPHLN is conducting a <b>situational assessment</b> across its member to identify the main public health needs in laboratory systems, with focus on country capacity strengths and opportunities for interventions.		
13 30 – 14 30	<b>Presentation:</b> Results of Situational Assessment  By Ms. Jintana Sriwongsa RPHL Network Secretariat & Technical Team	Followed by Q&A Sessions
<b>SESSION IV: Market Place: Sharing best practices &amp; challenges on selected issues on lab preparedness &amp; response</b>		

Objectives: to learn from each other on key issues related to post-COVID-19 and to explore possible collaboration and maximize efforts for capacity building development at regional level		
14 30 – 17 00	Announcement of Market Place	
	Coffee Break	
15 30 – 17 00 [first round] Market Place	Exchange views: Lab preparedness for Post Covid preparedness	Key questions to be sent Display posters, Presenters to be on the provided spot to have interactive discussion with the audiences Partners are invited to share their works
<b>DAY 2: 16 May 2023</b>		
08 30 – 09 00 Recap	Recap from Day 1 By Rapporteur Team	
09 00 – 09 30	Introduction for breakout sessions RPHL Network Secretariat	
<b>SESSION V: Synergizing efforts &amp; formulating the five -year capacity building development plan for RPHL Network</b> <b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To identify priority areas that require capacity building interventions from RPHLN including in <b>training, technical assistance (TA), twining program, and knowledge sharing</b></li> <li>b) To advancing/synergizing efforts with other networks/partners, Flagship program for 2023-2024 to be announced</li> </ul>		
<b>Methodology:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Based on key findings, 11 thematic areas of the Situational Assessments and other inputs of Day 1, group will identify priority areas that require capacity building interventions from RPHLN including in <b>training, technical assistance (TA), twining program, and knowledge sharing.</b></li> <li>▪ 4-5 Break- out sessions will be arranged <i>[to be announced on the 1<sup>st</sup> day]</i></li> <li>▪ Participants to choose the groups that match their priorities &amp; mandates;</li> <li>▪ Group will be requested to further their discussion to propose activities to formulate 5-year capacity building development plan for the network</li> <li>▪ RPHL Network Contact Person in each group, to present the result of discussion in plenary</li> </ul>		
09 30 – 12 00 <i>Breakout sessions [by key thematic areas of Situational Assessments]</i>	<b>Possible key activities for Capacity building development plan of RPHL Network</b>	Resources Person, <b>Rapporteur</b> to be identified
12 00 – 13 30	Lunch	
13 30 – 15 00	Group presentations & feedback WHO [Regional Framework]	<b>Discussants:</b> Dr. Jose Fernandez

	Moderator: Dr. Dhamari Naidoo, WHO SEARO	Dr. Sudarat Damrongwatanapokin ** Partners to be invited to provide a briefing of their relevant activities, if any [to confirm with partners]
15 00 – 15 15	Break	
15 15 – 16 00	Reflections of the forum Moderator: Dr. Khanchit Limpakarnjanarat	<b>Discussants:</b> To be confirmed
16 30 – 17 00 Wrap Up	Key outputs & ways forward By Dr. Kanate Temtrairath, RPHL Network Secretariat	
17 00 – 18 00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round of Market Place	
<b>SESSION VI: Partnership &amp; Networking</b> <b>Objectives: getting to know each other more...</b>		
18 00 – 21 00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Video Clips' presentations: Reflection of RPHL Network members/partners</li> <li>Welcome dinner</li> <li>Closing remark "Partnership Forum" by Dr. Supakit Sirilak, Director General of the Department of Medical Sciences, Thailand</li> </ul>	Joined by all Participants of 'Partnership Forum' and 'Infectious Substance Shipping Workshop [17-19 May 2023]'
<b>DAY 3: 17 May 2023</b>		
09 00 12 00 <b>RPHL Network Annual Meeting [Closed Meeting]</b>	Agenda to be informed	<b>RPHL Network Secretariat</b> <b>RPHL Network members &amp; invited participants only</b>
12 00 – 13 00	Lunch	
13 00 – 17 00 <b>Sites visits at DMSc, MOPH</b>  1) BSL 3, DMSC 2) TUC Laboratory	<b>Resource persons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Archawin Rojanawiwat</li> <li>Dr. Athiwat Primsiriskunawut</li> <li>Dr. Sumonmal Uttayamakul</li> <li>Dr. Don Changsom</li> </ul> Coordinator: Ms. Kenika Sanguansat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 'Registered' participants/partners</li> <li>Briefing participants</li> <li>Q&amp;A Session</li> </ul>